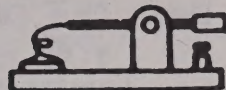
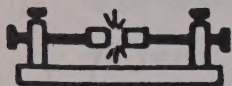


Spark-Gap Times

Published By

The Old Old Timers Club



SUMMER, 1990

IN THIS ISSUE:

- MY FIRST RADIO-DX TRIP ● HOW'S YOUR GROUND?
- THE PHONE PATCH BROUHAHA
- WHAT? NO METERS? ● And much more

THE MAGAZINE OF THE WIRELESS PIONEERS

SPARK GAP TIMES,
3619 N. Lamon Ave.,
Chicago, IL 60641
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★ ★ AN OPEN LETTER TO OUR READERS ★ ★

Dear Old, Old Timers:

YOU can see from the heft of this issue that it has about **33%** more pages than your usual SGT. That is entirely due to the great response from the members when we asked them for some written input. We can all be grateful for their efforts, for without their help, there simply would be no SGT at all, unless you want blank pages!

If you like what you see and read here, and if you'd like to have the future issues of SGT stay as big and as diversified as this issue, by all means send us some more material. If we don't have stuff to put into it, we can't publish SGT!!!!

On the off chance you don't like something (or even all) in this SGT, tell us and we'll take your complaint under advisement. Seriously. We might even publish your letter!

Meanwhile, we'll bet that nearly 99 & 44/100% of you have fine and interesting stories to tell about your personal experiences with Old-Time Radio, or about "The Good Old Days." So, don't be afraid to write all down and send it in.

If you've never written anything for publication, not to worry. We are very sympathetic to "beginners," as well as the "experienced." We'll try to make YOUR story look and read really professional.

So don't hesitate. Keep those stories and letters coming! We need 'em!!! And we'll respond with big and better SGTs

And by the way, we're always open to suggestions to improve SGT or the OOTC for that matter. If you have an idea, don't keep it under wraps! For goodness sakes, send it in!

Our thanks to all of you... and with vy 73...

Karl A. Kopetzky, K9AQJ,
SGT Editor & Publisher.

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Spark-Gap Times

Vol 27. Summer, 1990 No 2.

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Copyright, 1990, OOTC. SPARK GAP TIMES, the official publication of THE OLD, OLD TIMERS CLUB is published at 3619 N. Lamon ave., Chicago, IL 60641; Publisher, Karl Kopetzky & Associates; Editor, Karl A. Kopetzky, K9AQJ. SPARK GAP TIMES is published 4 times a year in March, June, September and December. Rates: Single copies, \$2.00; Annual subscription, \$7.00; Foreign, \$9.00 (U.S.Funds); for dual address, add \$2.00 to subscription rates. Address all circulation and editorial matter to K.A.Kopetzky, K9AQJ, Editor SGT, 3619 N. Lamon Ave., Chicago, IL 60641. Address advertising & membership matters to THE OOTC, 1409 Cooper Drive, Irving, TX 75061. Quotation from any issue permitted if credit to SPARK GAP TIMES accompanies quotation.

Printed in U.S.A.

OOTC'S \$14 CLUB

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Norman S. Bernat, K2GYX	Harry R. Conley, W5UY
Jim Caldwell, W7TCQ	Norman Lescourt, W6IRT
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Gerhard Jacoby, DL3ME	Edward M. Wiik, W0UGP
Peter W. Lycos, KM8K	Roy T. Tucker, N6TK
Slaughter Brandon Reed, W4DXB	

OOTC'S \$28 CLUB

Joshua J. Brehm, AE2L	Henry K. Warner, W1HRQ
-----------------------	------------------------

NEW MEMBERS ENROLLED IN OOTC

Josef Goeschlberger, OE2JG (2857)
Karl-Heinz Graetzer, HB9JAI (2858)
Ernest R. Bees, W8WNL (2859)
Joseph F. Cwick, N2JCZ (2860)
William P. Hopper, N6UIQ (2861)
Robert F. Bowker, K6QT (2862)
Forrest O. Robinson, W8BRV (2863)
John H. Embry, W4RTE (2864)
Kurt Helfer, Y24ZL (2865)

OOTC MEMBERS REPORTED AS SILENT KEYS

Old Old Timers note with regret and sorrow the passing
of our friends who have become Silent Keys
and express our sincere condolences to their families and Friends

Henry M. Bausch, W9FHU (769)
Stanley J. Schantz (1309)
Hugh E. Allen, W2BZ (779)
Robert S. Embry, W4HHQ (2254)
Norvell A. Canfield, W6KKF (570)
Ernst Fendler, DL1JK (2668)
Stewart S. Perry, W1BB (218)
Ruth Gieske, W5IZL (2547)
Robert W. Carter, K6DW (550)

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The first quarter of the last decade of the 20th Century has really been a hum-dinger. For us it has had a bit of everything, sometimes too large a helping for comfort. I know that each of you have had problems too, so enough of that.

I have just prepared a letter to be sent to all of the OOTC directors. The letter urges them to consider election of officers as President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. We have prepared simple OOTC letter-heads, salvaged from original work by Bert Ayers, W6CL, and a small quantity of those have been parcelled out to each Director so that correspondence may be made somewhat easier. As a lame-duck President, we have made some suggestions as to officer candidates, feeling that the Board of Directors, widely dispersed as it is, may not be fully aware of the number of truly fine members in OOTC who would be willing to undertake official duties. In each case we have tried to list alternates for their consideration - and, the Board will elect those it finds to be best qualified.

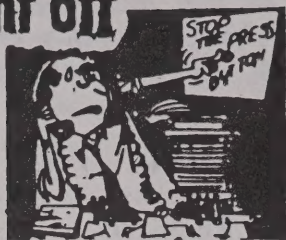
As a sort of wind-down, we have named OOTC Director, Leland Smith, W5KL, as Chairman of a Committee to review the OOTC constitution and by-laws. The Committee is being asked to study clarifications, modifications and/or additions to those documents which will eliminate some serious short-comings and make them once again usable. There have been suggestions that OOTC attempt to gain recognition as a tax-exempt organization. After due consideration, it is our feeling that this step is simply not in the cards at this point in time. The Committee may feel differently, and if so, their recommendations which will come to membership before any changes are made, will certainly address that matter.

OOTC is favored by our relatively large number of International Members. More come in regularly and, in the list of new members presented in this edition of SGT you will note our first member who lives in East Germany - they are welcome. Let us all work to make their membership in OOTC worthwhile and fulfilling.

Finally, we are preparing a new membership application form. The present form is somewhat confusing particularly regards to dues. Let me say that every member of OOTC is a Life Member. When you sign up and receive your membership number, it is for life. Because our membership fee is very low, it is impossible to send SGT to all members. Accordingly, many years ago, the decision was made to charge for the publication. At present the fee is \$7 for North American members and \$9 for International members, per year. I am hereby requesting volunteers for a committee to study ways and means by which SGT could be sent to all OOTC members. As it is, we have about 1500 active members and about 600 receive SGT. We really need to find a way to get the publication out to all members. Any ideas?

Ted, W5EJ

right off



the
editor's
desk

The opinions & suggestions expressed in this article, are not necessarily those of the OOTC, its Officers or Directors.

One Way To Get More Hams

IT IS common knowledge that the ARRL favors a greater influx of new hams especially youngsters, than we have at present. But it is not common knowledge that *what the League does*, seems to be 180 out of phase with *what it favors*, judging from apparent realities.

Among reasons for the paucity of new hams is that the examination for a ham license, including that for Novice Class is very tough and difficult. That by itself, is enough to discourage some who might become interested in joining our ranks.

Furthermore, the proposed No-Code license examination, according to an FCC release, will lie somewhere between the examinations for the General and Advanced Class licenses in scope and difficulty, making it tougher than for either a Technician or General Class license applicant who can pass the code test.

What is even more amazing, is that the spectrum/output power privileges that accompany a No-Code license are greatly restricted and are far below those available to Technician or General Class licensees. In other words, with *less* electronic engineering knowledge, one gets far *greater* spectrum/output power privileges! This is sheer imbecility!

It also is one cause for the sparsity of new hams.

Where The Trouble Really Lies

How did the extremely difficult examinations come about? Partly they are due to FCC Part 97, 1(d), a presently outmoded carryover from the FCC Rules of many, many years ago, which state that the amateur radio service has "a fundamental purpose expressed in the following ..."

(The) "Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of... technicians and electronic experts." (Emphasis supplied.)

Good question: Why do prospective hams have to be "technicians and electronic experts" in order to be legally able to operate a ham station?

One answer is that those who created the present ham license question pool are hams whose philosophy is "I made it. And I don't want just anybody to be a ham. So let's make the examinations just a bit more difficult to get that license!" This philosophy is known as "The Good Old-Boy Syndrome!" Unfortunately, the FCC accepted the question pool without argument, since it obviously felt that it was made up by the hams themselves, and hence satisfactory.

A better answer would be that nobody has recently thought to study Part 97, 1(d) (*supra*) which is patently obsolete, and note its disastrous effect on all who would be hams or even those hams who would upgrade their licenses.

Example. We have read 1800 questions which comprised one pool from which FCC license questions were drawn. Less than 25% pertained either directly or indirectly to the actual or proper operation of a ham station or ham gear. The balance involved Electronic Engineering discipline in one way or

OOTC BIRTHDAYS OF RECORD

JUNE

- 1 VK3LC, W3PN
- 2 W8QEQ, W9QBJ
- 3 W1GAY, W5IZL
- 4 W8CC, K7EK
- 5 KA9DYS, W6US
- 6 W3MJO, G5GH, N4JCS
- 8 K5EAP, WD4OCW
- 9 W3BYI
- 10 W9KPC
- 11 K5MMP
- 12 K4FRO, NG5R
- 13 DL7BZ, W3ONE, W5LDH
- 14 W1GAA
- 15 W6BOX
- 16 W7LUQ, W5GFM, W5NJ, W1RPM, AE2L
- 18 K4JQA
- 19 W3KW, K0MG, W7YKC
- 20 W6WHK, N0DAA, W0QIK
- 21 W1AE
- 23 KA3GXP
- 24 W4MX
- 25 W7HDT
- 26 K2LCU, N5DXA, KB2YR, W0BX,
- 27 W1BHA, W7EM, W5IIL, W1OKB WB9UAE, W6ON
- 28 W5BET, AE6N
- 29 W1BHD, W2AUF, KA6HOQ, DL3MT
- 30 W2LAE, K2GCE, NS5M, W5VFB

JULY

- 1 W6UK
- 2 W1FQ, W6EH, N4XV
- 3 W5QF, W4FYE, W2BCS
- 4 W3HGD
- 5 W5QKR, SM5CLW, G8AX, W9TAL, 10G
- 6 PY2DCV, K6OU, KA5LOX
- 7 W1BGP, W5LKL, DK9LG, W7LH
- 8 WA7YSO, W6LL, W4POA, N6NWR
- 9 W2WB, K4FW, W6WA, W4VBQ
- 10 W6JXD, W2DPD
- 11 W8VZE, W5AE, W2EEQ, K6ZE, W6GG
- 12 W6AAQ, W6AI
- 13 WA4IRV, DL6DV
- 14 WA2DPJ, W3GN, K9EAT, W6RA
- 15 W7BKS, KB2BVE, W8FLA, W4KGJ
- 16 W8KQY, W3CFC, W5VRH, W1PEX, PA0EE
- 17 WB4JCB, W2EPN, K4MJD, DL1QP, W2EYY
- 18 W2JE, W3MIM, W1ACB
- 19 W9CMC, W7ABD, W3HWZ, K4WI, W0RLS, W2CSL
- 20 K4JR, W6ERM
- 21 K4UN, DL3BE, HB9BJ
- 22 W5JN, W6CK, W6CKU, W9IH, VE7XE, W8BCH, K4TF
- 23 W4ELR, W3IUW, W1JJ, W9CLO
- 24 N6ATY, W8PFO, W3FYD
- 25 K4FVI, W3CFX, K4GEW, VE6PW, W2UWD WA9IFO
- 26 W9GX
- 27 K2IC, W7DI, 0Z2X, KH6IHY
- 28 W0CJH, C6ADY, KD7PL, W0BWJ, W6IRT
- 30 W1DGD, N5RM, N4NF
- 31 W7OCX, W2URP

If your birthday isn't listed, please send full birthdate to HQ so that it can appear in the next listing of Birthdays of OOTC Members.

BOOK REVIEW. "Q T C ", by Ray Redwood; pub. by Sequoia Press, 2502 Cockburn Dr., Austin, TX 78745.

This new book by "Sparks," (Ray Redwood) is one of the most enjoyable on the annals of sea-going, radio officers. It touches on nostalgia, personal experiences, romance, humor, historical analysis and the FGDMSS progress. Redwood's book brings alive the smell of salt air, the feel of the ship-board radio shack, the roll of the deck and the fun ashore, making the reading well worthwhile. W6NKE

H E L P !



WE NEED SOME ADDRESSES

K4NAR DREYER, HARRY W	33	W8ACE WILLIG, JOHN J	1715
W1SDT CHARBONNEAU, WILFRED J	124	W6EPU LEE, VERL E	1731
W6ASN BRADY, JAMES F	234	K4HHJ HATCH, GLENN M	1745
W9CMC STARKWEATHER, RODNEY S	317	W6AEV HARPER, GEORGE W	1793
W7FC SULLIVAN, WILLIAM J	396	W0CY MC KIM, JAMES E	1830
N4GX LANE, EDWIN H	466	W8CKX TUMBLIN, WILLIAM K	1879
W1LU ALLEN, WILLIAM SLATER	541	W1ICO SCHALTENBRAND, ALFRED L	1923
W9DI COTTRELL, WILLIAM R	584	KD4ZY CASEY, WILLIS B	1963
VE2IR THOMSON, COREY	604	W9US KAMIN, VERNON A	1974
W5UCW PRATT, ROY W	605	W8PCX AUSTIN, THOMAS L	2015
W1DGD JACKSON, ARTHUR E	722	W3CXE SHERMAN, CHESTER J	2019
W0CRN LEWIS, DANIEL D	723	K1AXS MATTISON, ROBERT M	2075
STONE, SAMUEL P	726	W9DBO KLEPPIN, ELMER F	2092
BLOOM, J D JR	738	WB1FLO LOVELAND, ROBERT	2097
TERREL, C L		W6DOB JONES, LLOYD M	2100
W7DI HUBBELL, EUGENE A	931	W3GEB STOUT, JAMES VICTOR	2150
W4CX LOONEY, LESTER A	984	K4HYY STONE, RILEY N SR	2202
K6JH JACKSON, EDWARD W	998	W9NSE GRAFF, CLARENCE L	2222
W0AQ SKRAINKA, R NICK	1007	W3GRK WILLIAMS, CHARLES E	2298
W5DNM BUDDECKE, CHARLES B	1064	W1OK HAUGER, OSCAR A	2316
W2MR KARKER, ANTHONY S JR	1112	W6MK KIESNER, CHARLES M	2363
K5VKO POST, FRED T	1123	WD4OCW DARRACOTT, CHARLES R JR	2402
WA3MEK HOLCOMB, B T	1252	W3HNY PHILLIPS, GUY A	2418
W8VV MILLER, CALVIN J	1267	W1OI ANDERSON, CARL S	2462
WB4JCB JEROME, ERNEST G	1288	W6NBM BROWN, DAVID A	2491
WA6CIC BEAULIEU, JOSEPH P	1314	G3NR BIRT, ARTHUR WILLIAM	2493
W9GX RIDGELY, CLARENCE E	1365	N4XV JONES, JAMES F	2536
W6EXQ BROWN, LEROY D	1372	NF5Z POWELL, RICHARD E	2551
WB4P PIERCE, JOHN M	1479	KD7PL CHRISTIANSEN, HAROLD B	2565
W5VGW FLOYD, JAMES ARTHUR	1480	WB4ZGR STEEL, DOUGLAS E	2611
KD4KA THWEATT, R CLIFFORD	1556	N6VY MC MAHON, MORGAN E	2646
K1ATF DURANT, ALEXANDER JR	1610	W5LKL WILLIFORD, BUCK M	2686
W5VRH MASHBURN, FRANK C	1627	W5VGU DELBREL, WILLIAM	2711
K6EV ST JOHN, ERCELL E	1654	W2TLC MILATZ, HERMAN F	2722
W4POA WEIGAND, RAYMOND A	1709	OA4AV REUSENS, GUSTAVO	2757

We have an urgent note from our President, Ted, that the Post Office has been returning all mail addressed to the above members for various reasons, the gist of which is that the addresses are incorrect. Some may be Silent Keys without our knowing, for example.

So Ted is urging ALL members to look the list over, and if they can come up with any address or info on any of the above, even if it is old, to send whatever they know to Ted right away.

HOW GOOD IS YOUR GROUND?

by

Robert Bookwalter, W4NWF

A good ground is an excellent insurance against lightning strikes, helps avoid most RFI, and might improve your signal

MOST of us connect our equipment to a ground rod or water pipe (as a ground) and assume that we are safe. However, to be reasonably well protected from lightning and power surges, we need to do two things. One is to install a surge protector across the incoming power line. The other is to have a low resistance ground connected to our equipment by a heavy conductor (not stranded) as short as possible and with a minimum number of bends, none of them sharp.

Now, how do you determine the resistance quality of your ground? It can be done by installing two temporary ground rods, causing the 3 ground rods to assume a triangular configuration, and then taking a set of measurements and performing a few calculations. Let us label our permanent ground rod

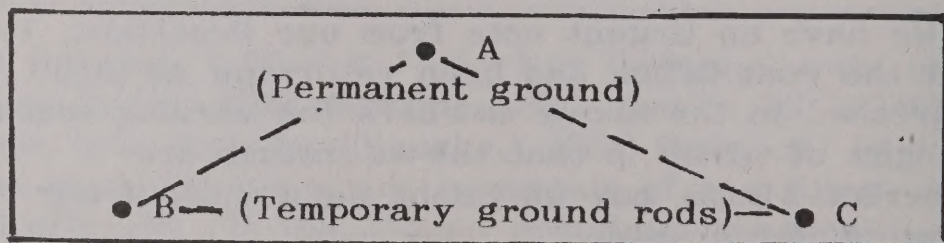


Figure 1. Layout of the temporary ground rods with relation to the permanent ground rod to measure the ground resistance at ground rod A. The distance between rods is not important, as long as reliable measurements can be made.

"A," and the temporary ground rods, "B" and "C." See Figure 1.

Using an isolation transformer, apply an AC voltage across A - B, B - C and C - A, each time measuring the voltage and current.

Using Ohm's Law, $R = E/I$, determine the resistance of each above pair of measurements, marking the resistance across A to B as R_A , across B to C as R_B , and across C to A as R_C . The resistance at A, your permanent ground, is the most important one, of course.

The ground resistance at A can be determined from the formula below. If your computations end up resulting in some negative figures, discard the minus sign, but retain the numbers themselves which will be correct and useful.

The formula to use is:

$$\text{Resistance at A} = (R_A + R_C - R_B)/2$$

Pse QSY to Page 22

that secret door and what it means

It protects the secret of our process of impregnation. Impregnation makes *Aerovox Tested Fixed Mica Condensers* accurate. It fixes the layers of tin foil and mica into a homogeneous unit that will not be affected by moisture or temperature changes.

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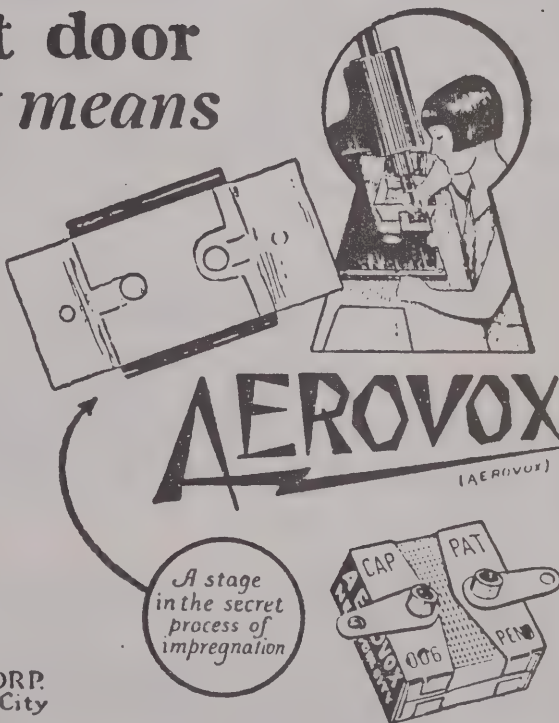
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Courtesy RADIO-CRAFT, circa 1938

THIS ADVERTISEMENT APPEARED IN 1925

THE PHONE-PATCH BROUHAHA !

What the FCC thinks about the current brouhaha centering on the ham's use of phone-patches

FOR the most part, hams are not aware of the tumultuous goings-on concerning phone-patches, code practise stations and one-way ham transmissions. In the past, SGT has tried to keep those of our membership who are subscribers informed on the latest activity in these fields. However, the issues are very much clouded, because many hams take views that are either inconsistent with those of the FCC, or depend on facts that have nothing to do with the problem or dispute.

The least well-known position is that of the FCC, which, incidentally, has the last word in the matter. You may or may not agree with the FCC posture and stand, but in the final analysis, whatever the FCC will enforce, is what the hams will have to live with, regardless of "whose ox is gored."

The Official FCC Stand

We are indebted to CQ magazine for the explanation of how the FCC stands on these matters, as reported by CQ in its February, 1990 issue at pp. 92 - 93.

The FCC stand is expressed by FCC Special Services Division Chief, Robert McNamara, who noted his fear that the fundamental principle of the rules for the amateur service in the United States was being jeopardized, and the experimental nature of the amateur service was being suppressed, since the

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My First Radio-DX Trip

by
Duncan Kreamer, W1GAY



When a ham finally has the opportunity to make a DX trip, it's a never to be forgotten happenstance!

I GOT interested in a trip to VP5-land, the Turks and Caicos Islands, in the British West Indies by answering VP5D's advertisement which appeared in QST. I got my VP-land, reciprocal license thru his efforts; and became VP5VAD whenever I would land in the islands.

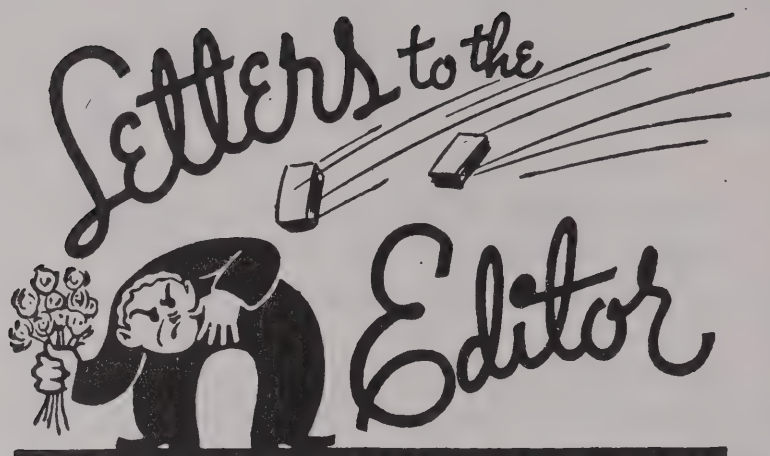
My flight there (with no XYL) originated from the Newark, N.J. airport. I had appeared at the airport early which was all to the good as Pan Am, without prior notice, moved the departure time back a bit from what it showed in the time table. Flying time was about 80 minutes from Newark to the Island of Provinciales, usually called "Provo" for short.

My host, VP5D, met me at the airport; and we drove to his shack, which sported a beam and Icom gear. I went on the air that Thursday afternoon, and was on the air intermittently until the following Tuesday noon. I operated on 10, 15 and 20M, making 1894 contacts in 65 countries, with the majority of the QSOs being on 10M which was "hot."

VP5-Land is a Great Place

While I was there, the QTH was very quiet, since crowds usually don't show up until after Dec.15th. Because the pool was not yet open, we managed to get wet in the Caribbean. The

Pse QSY to Page 29



I (Edited)
T is with no surprise that I read in the latest SGT that "You can't print what (the readers) don't send in!" So I think it should be interesting for American hams to read something of ham radio in the Free (City) of Danzig, where I was born in 1921; and I shall tell you about hamming during the last years in Danzig before the War. But excuse my English. I know that my English isn't good, but I hope that you will be able to understand (what I write).

In 1937 I was a student in high school; and one of the teachers who taught us the French language, was a radio amateur (operator). His name was Gerhard Bussler, and his callsign (was) YM4AA.

He (wore) a badge with a drawing of an antenna on it; (and) I asked him what the badge (meant). The explanation lead to his inviting me to see his extensive, amateur, radio station. This was a pleasure for me, because I was very interested in this new thing.

Station YM4AA was very nice. (Bussler) had an American receiver with 25 tubes, perhaps at that time a rarity, with which it was possible to "hear" the whole world.

The transmitter was home-built. (It was assembled on) a big shelf, (with) the main (power) supply (located) below and the antenna coils (located) on top. Power was only 100W, which (at that time) was "big" power! In Danzig only CW was permitted; 'phone (AM) was (prohibited).

YM4AA was then a world (renown) DX-amateur. Perhaps some (OOTC member) will (recall) his callsign and (maybe) still (have one of his) QSLs. After the War, Bussler was (relicensed) as DL1EB in West Germany. He was always an enthusiastic ham; (one of) the best in Danzig; and was the chairman of our local Danzig club which is a part of the German Amateur Transmitting Service (DASD). (Unfortunately,) he (became a Silent Key) at age 61 in 1971.

In Danzig there used to be 15 to 20 active amateurs, of which only 4 are still alive, who are:

Werner Koch, DL1EQ, ex-YM4AY,
Georg Doerfler, DL7CY, ex-YM4AI,
Fredrich Richert, DL1EY, and
me, DL6QZ, ex-DL1QV, ex-YM4BD.

Richert was too young to be originally licensed in Danzig; and was (later) licensed in West Germany. (Our group meets) on 80M every Thursday morning, (since) we all live (close by each other) in Bavaria.

In my next letter, I shall tell you about the simplest radio equipment in Danzig before the War.

Lothar Meuter, DL6QZ.

(Edited)

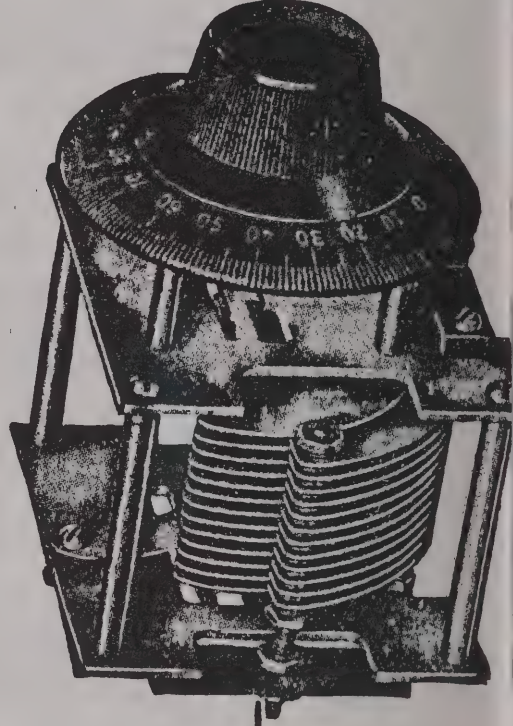
Here is some input for SGT from an OOT, first licensed in 1921 as 8WR. However, I was experimenting as early as 1911, before any (FCC) laws or regulations.

In the early '20s, I formed the Astatic Microphone Laboratory. The first mike produced was the D104 crystal mike, which became very popular due to its high output and frequency

Pse QSY to Page 25

(Reprinted Courtesy of RADIO-CRAFT, Circa 1938)

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WORLD SERIES BROADCASTING REVISITED

by

Forrest D. Pilgrim, W4JD

In the Early '20s, the Big Score Board In The Public Square, Fed By Western Union, Was Replaced By the Fledgling, Radio Broadcasts. But It Took Quite a While Before the Public Would Believe In What It Heard On the Radio

IT IS difficult for most people to imagine what life was like in the early years of this century when there was no radio, no television, and relatively few automobiles. The following story, which is true, serves to illustrate how things were then.

The year was 1921, and station WSB, Atlanta was about to increase its broadcast power from 100 to 1000W. I had visited the studio, where there were very heavy drapes hung around the broadcast position to muffle echoes and noise. So I had become familiar with the WSB management.

Still, I was surprised to receive a telegram from the WSB management advising that it would start testing the station's high power late one evening. The management, the telegram said, would appreciate a report from my place on how the new power was being received. Since I was located about 40 airline miles from the transmitter site in Atlanta, it was happy with my report that WSB's signal was being well received.

About this time, I had built a number of

receivers for a few persons adventurous enough to invest in this new technology. The receivers were 3-tube affairs with a detector tube and 2 stages of audio amplification, coupled with appropriate, interstage transformers. The sets operated entirely from batteries, consisting of a 6-volt storage storage battery for the tube filaments, and a series of 45-volt dry cells providing plate voltages. Later models used dry cell "C" batteries for grid bias. In the late summer of 1921, I had constructed a "Super" receiver for myself, and had purchased a Magnavox, "Gooseneck"-type loudspeaker (actually a horn) for its audio output.

Practically none of the people in my location, other than those for whom I had built the receivers, had ever heard of "radio broadcasts," and certainly had never listened to one.

So when the 1921 World Series baseball started, I installed the "Super" receiver near the front door of my father's furniture store, and placed the horn on the outside, so that passersby could hear the broadcast from WSB of the baseball game.

However, for many years, some of the merchants would sponsor a World Series scoreboard erected in the public square, so constructed, that the person posting the box scores stood about 6 feet above the street. There would usually be 50 to 100 people congregated around the board to watch the posting of the scores which came in every few minutes via Western Union telegraph.

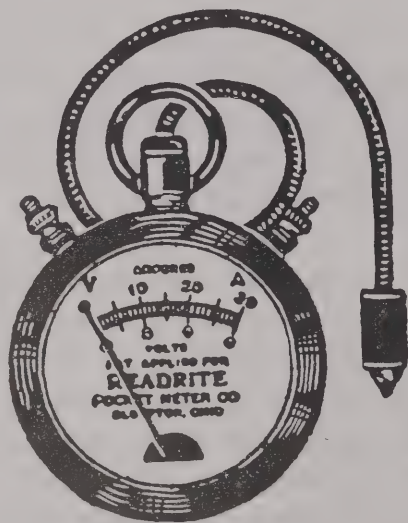
(That brings back memories for me, too. My Uncle, an avid baseball fan, would take me - aged 12 at the time - to the old Madison Square Garden in New York City, where at one end, a huge, back-lit score board was erected. Attendants would post the action using lights for the players, and a small light for the ball. All information came in via Western Union, and the clacking of

Pse QSY to Page 29

THE OOTC CHAPTER 2 SPRING LUNCHEON

Chapter 2 of the OOTC held its Spring Luncheon, May 19, 1990 at the Chief Petty Officers Club, Naval Station, Terminal Island, Cal., thru arrangements by Ray Furlong, W6QIL. Thirty-six persons attended including special member Bert Ayers, W6CL, OOTC Treasurer, and the founder of this Chapter. Special guests included Fried Heyn, WA6WZO, ARRL Director, Southwestern Div. and his wife, Sandy; and Bob Rickey, NF6P, QCWA candidate-director and his lady. Both Fried and Bob gave interesting talks; while Ray exhibited his automobile license plate collection which drew a lot of attention. Comaraderie and friendship was the theme of the day and was enjoyed by all.

Ken Johnson, W6NKE, President.



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THIS ADVERTISEMENT APPEARED IN 1908

Courtesy RADIO-CRAFT, circa 1938

WHAT? . . .

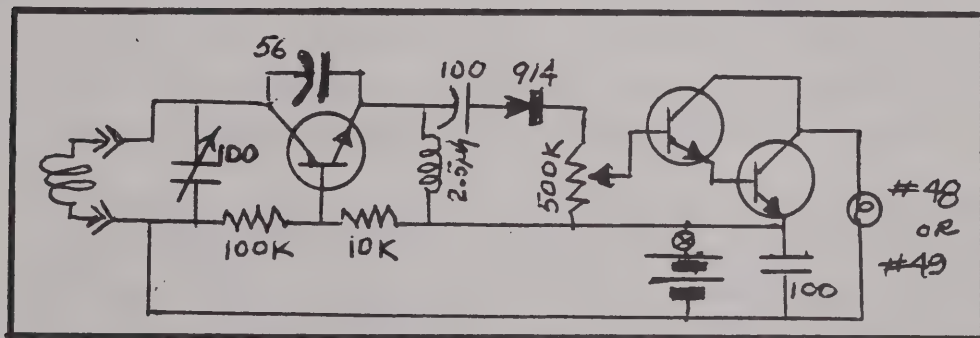
NO METERS??

by

Bob Richardson, W6WHM

Remember when you couldn't afford to buy that meter, and used some good, old, dial-lamp bulbs?

ONCE upon a time in those dear, dead days almost beyond recall, the dial-lamp was a versatile and useful component in many a ham shack. It was used as an inexpensive substitute for a meter in a number of ham magazine transmitter construction articles as an indicator of modulation, output, and rf current. Also it was an indicator in a wavemeter or standing wave bridge, and a host of other ham shack and gear uses.



The Grid-Dip Meter w/ Dial-Lamp Indicator

The late McMurdo Silver made optimum use of the dial-lamp bulb as a meter substitute in each of his compact, "Atomic X" transmitters for 3.5MHz, 144MHz and 440MHz following World War II.

A later innovation was the grid-dip meter, which

Pse turn the page

was really an oscillator with a dial-lamp bulb as an indicator. It was a self-contained, hand-held version which could get into tight places; and was handy for tuning up mobile and other types of antennas, as well as in many, other, different, run of the mill applications.

The dial-lamp bulb current characteristic was (and still is) determinable from the color of the bead inside the bulb.

Lamp Number	Bead Color	Current
41	White	500mA
46	Blue	250mA
40	Tan	150mA
47	Brown	50mA
48	Pink	60mA
49	Pink	60mA

How's Your Ground?QSY'd de Page 11

If resistance RA is more than 4 to 6 ohms, for a better ground, you should install a longer ground rod. Remember too, that the lower the resistance, the better it will be. You must use AC rather than DC for these tests, as DC measurements would be incorrect by being affected by electrolysis.

If you can't get sufficient current to provide reliable readings, use a higher voltage from a small step-up transformer, or install longer temporary ground rods, or move them closer to the permanent ground rod. Also try wetting the earth around the temporary ground rods, but not around the permanent ground rod.

Not only will lowering your ground resistance give you better lightning protection, but it might often improve your signal, especially if you are using a vertical antenna, or any antenna that works against your permanent ground rod.

another. Why should a ham have to be an EE to operate his station and gear?

In other fields, some with life and death responsibilities, an Engineering education is never a prerequisite for a license.

Item. We have the official, FAA "Question Book" for use by applicants for an "Airline Pilot" license. Nowhere does the applicant face any question which would require him to be an Aeronautical Engineer or Technician, or have that knowledge or education. Yet, providing that he can also pass the flight tests, has the required flight experience and passes a thorough physical, he can fly a plane with over 400 people's lives depending on him. Even a "Private Airplane Pilot" need not have the education of an Aeronautical Engineer to be licensed to fly people whose lives depend on him.

Item. Nearly anyone can take a bus driver's license test. He or she need not be an Automotive Engineer or Technician to drive a vehicle with anywhere up to 50 persons aboard, even children, whose lives depend on his abilities as a driver, not as an automotive engineer or technician.

So again, why does a ham, whose sole ham license use is either the operation of his amateur radio station or its construction and use according to tight FCC specifications, have to be a "Technician or Electronic Expert," equal to an EE degree? It simply fails to make any sense, at all.

A Suggested Remedy

Therefor, since the sole reason for the extreme and totally unwarranted difficulty with the license examination questions is probably based on FCC Part 97, 1(d), (*supra*), which is deemed both ineffective

Pse turn the page

and really obsolete, let the ARRL petition the FCC to delete this paragraph entirely.

For it is a fact that the present examinations totally fail to provide the "expansion of the reservoir of technicians and electronic experts" that Part 97.1(d) envisages. At best, most of the successful, ham license candidates answer the examination questions by rote from what's found in any one of the several "answer books" now on the market, relying on their memory, and not from any Electronic Engineering education.

What Fair Questions Should Really Cover

A substitute for the deleted part might be directed towards the creation a "reservoir of competent amateur radio station and amateur radio gear thereto pertaining, operators." Fair questions could address the operation of a ham station with particular attention to the many ills and troubles that are involved, like RFI, high SWR, poor power supplies etc; as well as a really intimate understanding of the FCC and International Rules and Regulations pertaining to all ham operations regardless of the mode employed.

While the above suggestion might not result in swarms of new hams, it certainly would put hamdom back on the right track. And in doing so, hamdom might appeal to many more persons including youngsters, than it does now in its present state with the extremely and unnecessarily difficult license examinations, the greater percentage of which really have little or nothing to do with amateur radio station operation, and requiring an EE educational or similar background.

So what to YOU think?

K9AQJ

Quotable quote. If the media stopped giving the flag burners front page and prime time TV coverage, 99% of the flag burning would stop of itself, without any monkeying with our Bill of Rights! (Anonymous)

range, and the lack of carbon hiss, which was then a problem. The D104 was ideal for the AM xmtrs of that day.

Today, some of the mikes being used on SSB xcvsr cause the signal to be distorted and to be

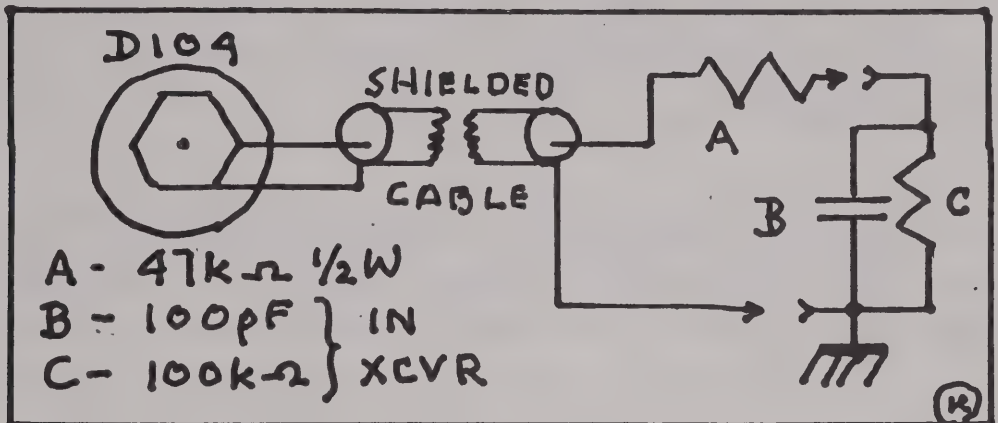


Figure 1. D104 Microphone equalizing circuit.

broad (over modulation) with response peaks at about 2500Hz. The D104 can do better. So, if you have a D104, don't throw it out! It just needs to be equalized to be its good old self on SSB.

Almost all of the modern SSB xcvsr have a mike input of about 100k ohms. This is too low for the mike to develop low frequency response; and causes the highs to stand out. The circuit in Figure 1 will equalize a D104, so that it will work FB with today's SSB xcvsr.

Note that if the D104 is used with the "G" stand, the 47k, 1/2W resistor can be inserted in the shielded lead at the base of the mike stand. Also note that if the mike cord is about 3 ft long, the cable capacity will approximate 100 pF, which is in itself correct for most SSB xcvsr. The equalizing circuit also reduces rf pickup by the mike.

Creed M. Chorpening, W4TZ.

Pse turn the page

The centerfold (Jan/Feb.'90, SGT) of 1924 "World Wide Wireless," from the RCA house organ, brought back nostalgic memories of 1925 when I worked for RCA on the 18th floor of the Woolworth Bldg. (in New York City).

On the same floor was J.O.Smith, 2ZI, who was famous for his wireless, technical publications including "Modern Radio Operation," 1922," of which I still have a copy. J.O. sponsored my membership in the I.R.E., now the IEEE.

Also on the same 18th floor was Gen. James G. Harbord, RCA president and Dave Sarnoff, later to become chairman of the board and one of the main initiators of RCA's progress in later years.

As I recall, RCA products in those days were manufactured mostly by G.E. and Westinghouse. Interestingly, Owen D. Young of GE was RCA's chairman of the board.

In 1925, my rig included a 50-watt bottle CW transmitter; an Acme 1 kW, spark transformer which I pulled apart and rewound for 1,000 volts; and 52 Mason jars for rectifiers. I would have had more, but that was all my Mother had. Needless to say, that was the end of her canning days!

The receiver was a WD11 regenerative detector with one WD12 audio stage. On 80M CW I had no trouble working into Europe late at night. I even worked Australia once!

Ham radio now is as different as the Model T Ford which provided the spark coil that enabled me to get on the air in 1922! Time surely marches on! Yesterday is gone; tomorrow hasn't come yet! So live it up today!

Ralph Hasslinger, W2CVF

"never ending debate is denying the purposes for which the frequencies were allocated."

CQ magazine, in reporting on the brouhaha about phone-patches, says, "Business transmissions are forbidden on amateur frequencies, whether individual or organizational. whether for profit or not for profit, whether charitable or commercial and whether government or non-government. We think that pretty well says it all, and very accurately."

Chief McNamara indicated that, "All types of communications relating to business activities, including the advertising, soliciting, ordering, furnishing, deliveries, accounting or billing of any supplies, materials or services are prohibited."

Furthermore, CQ reported that international, 3rd-party communications are limited to tests and remarks of a technical nature and to insignificant, personal remarks, which "by reason of their unimportance, recourse to the public telecommunications service is not justified."

Regarding these limitations, McNamara stated, "Considering these limitations, it is not apparent why there should be any significant amount of 3rd-party communications transmitted in the amateur service."

Noting that the FCC has usually permitted the hams to solve their own disputes, McNamara said, "This approach has not been effective in this instance; and we are looking to other alternatives."

CQ magazine reported that the FCC was reviewing the comments from a multitude of hams, who wrote letters commenting on the disputes involving 3dr-party traffic and one-way transmissions.

Pse turn the page

CQ further reported that William Cross, FCC Personal Radio Branch stated that the situation might entail making some new rules regarding phone-patches, etc. "We want to find a way to get 20 meters so that it's not anarchy," Cross said. "As a practical matter, it looks like 14300-14350 is where the problems are going on. We have an obligation to those operators who have access to these frequencies to return the frequencies to the Amateur Radio Service; and see that these problems stop," he concluded.

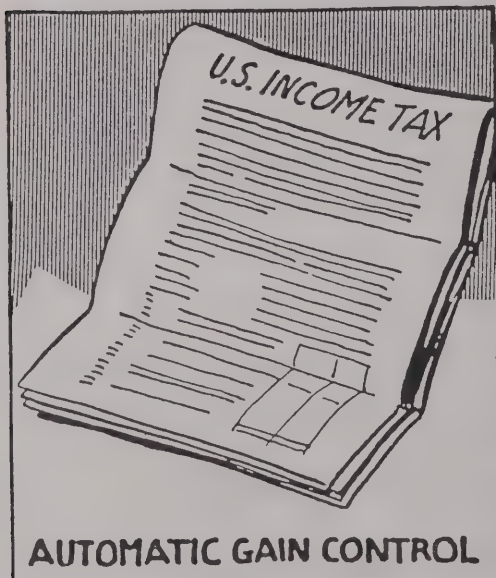
CQ Magazine Is Complimented

This article would not be complete without complimenting CQ magazine for the splendid service it has done for the ham fraternity by its in-depth investigation and the report reviewed above.

The hams need more of this kind of reporting so that they will always keep abreast of whatever is happening in their most cherished hobby.

In the meantime, it seems likely that some new, probably quite limiting, FCC rules on phone-patches, beacons, one-way transmissions and code-practise stations may be in the offing. ■

Technical Terms Explained. (Courtesy RADIO NEWS, circa 1940)



the telegraph instruments could be plainly heard thruout the darkened Garden. Ed.)

When the Series started in 1921, the broadcast from WSB was coming quite well on my "Super" receiver. This caused quite a lot of interest; and any number of people would stop in front of the store and horn and ask, "Where is that feller hiding, who is doing that talking?" I do not recall just where the Series was being played that year, but I remember that I would tell the people that "that feller" was "talking from the ball park." They found this hard to believe, several saying that there was no way that a person's voice could come that far thru the air! Some people would listen to the broadcast, then run across to the big score board in the public square to see whether or not what they had heard was correct.

Eventually, they were pleased to find that what they had heard over the "radio," in front of my was father's store, could be confirmed by the telegraph transmissions from Western Union at the Big Board.

Incidentally, that was the last year for the Big Board. The sleepy Georgia town had awakened to the new communication technology!

My 1st DX Trip

QSY'd de Page 13

restaurant also not yet being in business, we found a good, local place to get liquid refreshment and delicious food.

The weather overall was pleasant, the terrain all limestone and the natives very friendly. They took my money with no problems. Hi!

The trip was marvelously wonderful! So I plan to return this November and could use a Helper. If any of you are interested, write me; but please do not telephone. ■

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TO: NEW MEMBERS

The purpose of this sheet is to get all information possible about yourself and background. This information will be used to be included in our 'BLUE BOOK' for the edification of all members. We consider the 'BLUE BOOK' the 'Who's Who' in Amateur Radio.

Fill in all spaces where possible, if additional information is required use the back of this page. Please remember, we need a black and white photo about 2x4 inches will do. Also please limit your background material to 100 words or less.

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FIRST ON THE AIR _____ Former Calls _____

Marital Status (check one) Single _____ Widow _____ Widower _____ Divorced _____ Children (if any indicate number) Sons _____ Daughters _____

Military Service: Branch _____ Regular _____ Reservists _____ Retired _____

Served from _____ To _____ Highest rate or rank held _____

If married, indicate name of spouse _____ Call (if any) _____

BACKGROUND STORY

Be sure to include a small black and white photo with this data sheet.

Ted Heithecker, W5EJ, President, OOTC
1409 Cooper Dr, Irving, TX 75061

The Old Old Timers Club

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